

To: ORD-Exec-Council[ORDExecCouncil@epa.gov]
Cc: Koglin, Eric[Koglin.Eric@epa.gov]; Ernst, Hiba[Ernst.Hiba@epa.gov]; Jutro, Peter[Jutro.Peter@epa.gov]; Snyder, Emily[Snyder.Emily@epa.gov]; Ryan, Shawn[Ryan.Shawn@epa.gov]; Lindquist, Alan[Lindquist.Alan@epa.gov]; Nichols, Tonya[Nichols.Tonya@epa.gov]; ORD-Mgmt-Council[ORDMgmtCouncil@epa.gov]
From: Sayles, Gregory
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Subject: Brief Update on ORD support of the WV Elk River chemical spill

Greetings EC:

Since I was traveling yesterday during the EC call and could not brief you, below is a quick update on ORD support for the WV Elk River Chemical Spill. Region 3 has the lead for EPA with OW and ORD supporting. OW and ORD have also provided much advice and feedback to HHS (NIEHS and ATSDR) and briefly to FEMA.

The tank leak was reported on January 9. The original contaminant of concern was methyl-cyclohexane-methanol (MCHM). ORD supported OW and HHS with basic facts on properties, fate and transport, treatability and toxicology. We also provide reviews of the draft CDC health advisories, and some advice on analytical methods.

Ten days later, the tank owner reported that the mixture included an additional commercial product, "PPh Basic," a mixture containing mostly di-propylene-phenyl-glycol-ether (DiPPh) and propylene-phenyl-glycol-ether (PPh). To date, ORD has provided OW and HHS a toxicology overview based on available documents, an informal 2-pager on properties, fate and transport and treatability, and nascent participation in the spill's analytical chemistry group.

NCEA, NERL and NHSRC have provided high quality, relevant, and prompt support. Thank you.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Greg

Gregory Sayles, Ph.D.

Acting Director, National Homeland Security Research Center
U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development
Cincinnati, OH 45268
Tel. 513.569.7607

www.epa.gov/nhsrc